

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the personal interview granted to Applicants' representative on September 1, 2006. In that interview, the Examiner and the Applicants' representative discussed possible amendment of the independent claim to distinguish the cited references. The contents of that discussion are reflected herein.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, and 16-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 6, 14, and 15 are herein canceled. Claims 1 and 16 are herein amended. Claims 20-24 are added. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 11, and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Handyside, WO 92/00342. Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lerman, U.S. Patent No. 3,449,291. Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Handyside. Claim 6 was indicated as being allowable, but objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 7, 11, and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Handyside, WO 92/00342. Claim 1 is amended in the present response. As amended, claim 1 is directed to a process for producing a colored fine particulate resin. The process includes the following steps: (1) bringing a colored resin, which includes a thermally fusible resin with a colorant evenly distributed therein, into a molten state; (2) forming the colored resin from the molten state into droplet-shaped fine particles by injecting through small openings of a porous or multi-opening material or by a nozzle, or by spraying the molten colored resin in a non-dissolving medium which does not dissolve the colored resin; and (3) cooling and solidifying the newly formed droplet-shaped fine particles. The colored

resin in the molten state is dispersed in an emulsified form in a non-dissolving liquid medium.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of claim 6, which has been indicated as being allowable. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now allowable. Claim 1 is an independent claim from which claims 2-5, 7, 11, and 14-19 depend. As the claims depending from claim 1 necessarily include all the limitations of claim 1, applicants submit that these dependent claims are also allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 7, 11, and 14-19.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Handyside. Claim 13 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, applicants aver that the claim 13, like claim 1 and the other claims depending from claim 1, is now allowable, and request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 as obvious over Handyside, as Handyside fails to teach or suggest that the colored resin in the molten state is dispersed in an emulsified form in a non-dissolving liquid medium.

Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lerman, U.S. Patent No. 3,449,291. Claims 14 and 15 are herein canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Applicants accordingly request the withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim 16 is amended, and claims 20-24 are added herein. These claims are directed to processes of coloring articles with products made from by the claimed processes. Support for the amendment of claim 16 and the added claims is found at least in original claims 15 and 16. No new matter is added. As these claims all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are all allowable. Accordingly, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16, and the allowance of these claims.

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Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2006

In light of the above discussion, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

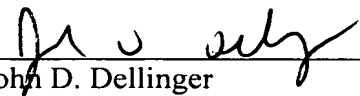
Respectfully submitted,

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